REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 13 have been amended. Reconsideration of presently pending claims 1-13 is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to for informalities and has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the object to claim 1 is requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites the following:

> 1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for controlling parallel distributed processes in a manufacturing environment, the method comprising the steps of:
>
> providing a plurality of places associated with a plurality of process conditions, wherein each place has at most one input path and one output path;
>
> providing a token for identifying the status of at least one of the plurality of process conditions;
>
> connecting the places with a plurality of arcs, the arcs adapted for identifying a route for each token, and wherein each place includes at most one input path and one output path;
>
> identifying conditions from the plurality of process conditions for each token to advance along one of the paths to a different place.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,283,896 to Temmyo, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Temmyo").

The PTO provides in MPEP § 2131 that

> *"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim...."*

Therefore, with respect to claim 1, to sustain this rejection the Temmyo patent must contain all of the above claimed elements of the claim. However, contrary to the examiner's position that all elements are disclosed in the Temmyo reference, Temmyo does not disclose a computerized method including providing a plurality of places associated with a plurality of process conditions "wherein each place has at most one input path and one output path" or connecting the places with a plurality of arcs adapted for identifying a route for each token "wherein each place includes at most one input path and one output path."

For example, with regard to the claim 1 limitation of "providing a plurality of places associated with a plurality of process conditions, wherein each place has at most one input path and one output path," the Examiner stated the following:

> Temmyo teaches the invention including a computerized method, system and a computer program stored on a readable medium for controlling parallel distributed processes in a manufacturing environment, comprising: providing a plurality of places associated with a plurality of process conditions, wherein each place has at most one input path and one output path (see, figures 2 and 4A-8 and col. 2, lines 37-63).

Office Action dated 10/21/2005, page 3.

Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, Column 2, Lines 37-63 of Temmyo recites the following:

> The syntax for describing the critical section and its mechanism, as well as the syntax for describing the parallel execution and its mechanism are not supplied to the programmer generally, so that it becomes the responsibility of the programmer to write the description of the critical section, to produce its mechanism, and to debug the process for mutually exclusive control.
>
> One technique that is widely used for modeling of a system is called a Petri-Net. Features of the Petri-Net are parallelism or simultaneousness and nonsynchronization. Its execution may be considered to be a series of discrete events with the timing when an event occurs being indefinite. Attempts have been made to utilize these features and the execution form for event driven control. The

> Petri-Net is useful in the simulation of a parallel execution system such as a computer model or a manufacturing process because of its mathematical analysis characteristics and modeling capabilities.
>
> The Petri-Net consists of four components: a place, a transition, an arc, and a token. The place indicates an event, the transition indicates a condition, the arc indicates a path, and the token indicates a state. The token moves in the arc between the places according to the condition of the transition, and causes an event corresponding to the place.

Temmyo, Column 2, Lines 37-63.

Here, Temmyo provides a general description of a Petri-Net. However, Temmyo provides no description or suggestion for a method that includes places having "at most one input path and at most one output path." Moreover, the Figures of Temmyo cited by the Examiner show execution of a Petri-Net in which places of the Petri-Net may be configured with one or more input and/or output paths. For example, Figure 5 of Temmyo shows the following:

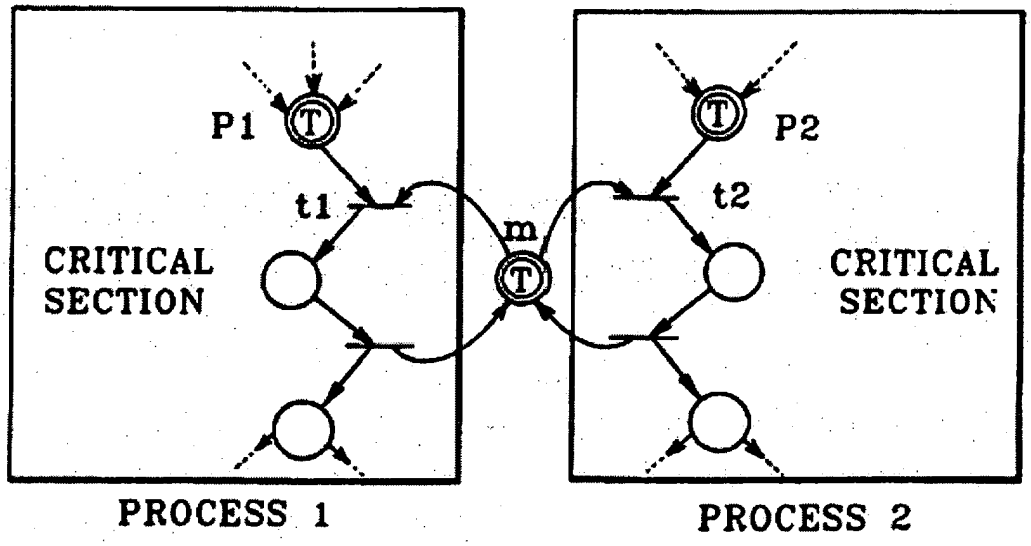

FIG 5

As can be seen, a place (m) of a Petri-net has multiple output paths (one output path to t1 and one output path to t2), and multiple input paths. Other places, e.g., place P1, are illustrated with multiple input paths. Likewise, other places, e.g., the bottommost place of PROCESS 1, are

illustrated with multiple output paths. Thus, it is clear that Temmyo provides no description or suggestion for a Petri-Net system in which a plurality of places are provided "wherein each place has at most one input path and at most one output path" as described in the subject application and explicitly recited in claim 1.

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Temmyo reference and should be withdrawn.

Amended independent claims 4 and 13 recite similar features as claim 1 and were rejected for similar rationale as claim 1. Therefore, the same distinctions between Temmyo and the claimed invention in claim 1 apply for claims 4 and 13, and thus Temmyo fails to anticipate claims 4 and 13. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 13 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

It is clear from all of the foregoing that independent claims 1, 4 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-12 depend from and further limit independent claims 1, 4 and 13 and therefore are allowable as well.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven T. McDonald
Registration No. 45,999

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HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972/739-8644
Facsimile: 972/692-9075
Client Matter No.: 2003-0059 / 24061.48

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